

Washington, D.C. - After the announcement by President Barack Obama on changes within the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency, Congressman Rob Wittman (VA-1) released the following statement:

"I commend the dedicated and honorable military leadership of Secretary Robert Gates and General David Petraeus," Wittman said. "Their dedicated service to our nation and their commitment to security and democracy around the world has furthered the cause for freedom. They led our nation's all-volunteer military force through some of the toughest years in recent history as they engaged our enemies in combat operations overseas, all the while protecting the United States of America."

"Pending his confirmation by the Senate, I look forward to working with Leon Panetta in his new capacity as Secretary of Defense. As we continue to face a challenging budgetary environment, I will continue to press for national defense policies supporting the strategic needs of this nation."

Congressman Wittman is a member of the House Armed Services Committee and the Chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.